

*Previously Amended Claims
per Article 34
Submission*

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) Ultrasonic washing equipment intended for ultrasonic washing of an object to be washed by putting it into a washing tank containing deaerated cleaning liquid, characterized in that an inlet and an outlet for charging and discharging the object to be washed in and out of the washing tank are provided in side walls of said washing tank, said inlet and outlet are provided with closable doors, a shifting mechanism for an object to be washed capable of charging the object to be washed into the washing tank from a side of the washing tank and discharging the object to be washed in the washing tank toward a side of the washing tank is provided in the vicinities of said inlet and outlet, and said washing tank is connected with a cleaning liquid charging/discharging mechanism for setting a level of the cleaning liquid not higher than the heights of the inlet and the outlet by shifting the cleaning liquid in the washing tank to a storage tank at the time of putting the object to be washed into the washing tank through the inlet and discharging the object to be washed in the washing tank through the outlet, and for setting a level of the cleaning liquid not lower than the heights of the inlet and the outlet by shifting the cleaning liquid in the storage tank to the washing tank at the time of washing the object to be washed.

2. The ultrasonic washing equipment according to claim 1, characterized in that a plurality of tanks of substantially the same shape as the washing tank are arranged along one line beside the inlet and outlet of said washing tank, the washing tank and these tanks adjoining each other are disposed with their inlet and outlet arranged in mutually opposite positions, a common door is provided between each couple of these inlet and outlet, and by opening or closing these doors said outlet and inlet are enabled to communicate with or intercepted from each other.

3. (Amended) An ultrasonic washing method characterized in that it comprises a step of putting an object to be washed from a side of a washing tank through an inlet in a side wall of the washing tank, with the level of the cleaning liquid in the washing tank being kept not higher than the height of the inlet in a side wall of the washing tank and, after closing the inlet with a door, letting deaerated cleaning liquid into the washing tank, a step of subjecting the object to be washed to ultrasonic washing within the washing tank, and a step of discharging the object to be washed through the outlet toward a side of the washing tank after the washing and after emptying the washing tank of the cleaning liquid to lower its level to not higher than the height of the outlet in a side wall of the washing tank and opening the door of the outlet.